

parcels that are determined to be in excess of the tribe's needs or were purchased for investment purposes.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 487 would simply allow the Miami Tribe to convey all the land that the tribe holds in fee simple without further Federal approval to facilitate those future transactions. I agree with the goals of this legislation, and I ask my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), the author of this measure.

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Chairman, thank you for allowing us to bring this to the floor. This is one of those common-sense bills that, unfortunately, requires Congress to act. Several tribes before us have obtained legislation like this from Congress to authorize them to sell or mortgage specific lands. The lands we are talking about are lands that aren't needed anymore; it is outside of the trust. But in order for the tribes such as the Miami and other tribes that are out there to effectively manage their lands, Congress is required to act.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairmen BISHOP and YOUNG for advancing this legislation, and I urge support for the passage of H.R. 487.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mr. MULLIN for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I urge all Members to support H.R. 487, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I, too, would urge adoption of the measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 487.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### MEDGAR EVERS HOUSE STUDY ACT

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 959) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the Medgar Evers House, located in Jackson, Mississippi, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 959

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Medgar Evers House Study Act".

#### SEC. 2. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary of the Interior shall conduct a special resource study of the

home of the late civil rights activist Medgar Evers, located at 2332 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive in Jackson, Mississippi.

(b) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) evaluate the national significance of the site;

(2) determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the site as a unit of the National Park System;

(3) consider other alternatives for preservation, protection, and interpretation of the site by Federal, State, or local governmental entities, or private and nonprofit organizations;

(4) consult with interested Federal, State, or local governmental entities, private and nonprofit organizations or any other interested individuals;

(5) determine the effect of the designation of the site as a unit of the National Park System on existing commercial and recreational uses, and the effect on State and local governments to manage those activities;

(6) identify any authorities, including condemnation, that will compel or permit the Secretary to influence or participate in local land use decisions (such as zoning) or place restrictions on non-Federal land if the site is designated a unit of the National Park System; and

(7) identify cost estimates for any Federal acquisition, development, interpretation, operation, and maintenance associated with the alternatives.

(c) APPLICABLE LAW.—The study required under subsection (a) shall be conducted in accordance with section 100507 of title 54, United States Code.

(d) STUDY RESULTS.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are first made available for the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate the results of the study and any conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 959 authorizes a special resource study to be conducted by the Department of the Interior on the home of the late civil rights activist Medgar Evers. This bill requires the Secretary to determine the national significance of the home and the feasibility of designating the site as a unit of the National Park Service.

The National Park Service does not have any objections to this bill, and it was reported out of the Natural Resources Committee by unanimous con-

sent. Once results of the study are available, Congress would have to act to create any new unit of the National Park system.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, 52 years ago, on June 12, 1963, Medgar Evers, a native Mississippian and the first field officer in that State for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which we have come to know as the NAACP, was shot in the driveway of his home in Jackson, Mississippi. This horrific event occurred hours after President Kennedy made a televised speech in support of civil rights. This was a critical moment in the modern civil rights movement as it moved towards the seminal March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

Evers was a World War II veteran, fighting in the Battle of Normandy. He returned home to find his path to the voting booth literally blocked at gunpoint. He personally fought to integrate the University of Mississippi Law School and was integral in assisting James Meredith successfully enroll as an undergraduate.

Evers was an activist, an organizer, a loving father, a husband, and, finally, a martyr. He is a true American hero whose time came too soon, yet his name and what he stood for continues to inspire so many. It is time that his service and loss be properly recognized by our Nation.

H.R. 959, the Medgar Evers House Study Act, would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the Medgar Evers House in Jackson, Mississippi, for potential inclusion in the National Park system. We estimate that this study will cost approximately \$200,000 to \$300,000. Funding for this proposed study would need to be allocated from the set amount of funding that Congress appropriates for all special resource studies.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend and colleague, Congressman BENNIE THOMPSON of Mississippi, for his very hard work on this legislation and for his leadership on this critical issue. The Medgar Evers House is a piece of American history that must be preserved, which is why this legislation is so important.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the adoption of H.R. 959.

I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Michigan for yielding me the necessary time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge our colleagues to support H.R. 959, the Medgar Evers House Study Act.

Medgar Wiley Evers was born in the small town of Decatur, Mississippi, in 1925. Medgar would go on to serve in our country's Army in France and in

Germany during World War II. After his military service, Medgar attended Alcorn State University, where he would meet his future wife, Myrlie.

After graduating from Alcorn, Medgar devoted his life to seeking justice and equality for all Americans. As field secretary for the NAACP in Mississippi, Mr. Evers led successful voter registration efforts throughout the State. He applied for admission to the University of Mississippi Law School in an unsuccessful effort to desegregate the university. Medgar also courageously led investigations into the death of Emmett Till and publicly supported Clyde Kennard after his imprisonment on erroneous charges stemming from his efforts to integrate the University of Southern Mississippi.

On June 12, 1963, as he returned home from a NAACP planning meeting, Medgar was shot in the back in the driveway of his home while his family was inside the house. He died at a local hospital less than an hour later. One week after his death, he was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

Today, the Medgar Evers House has been preserved as a museum by Tougaloo College. The home has been refurbished to appear as it did at the time of Evers' death. The home contains an exhibit regarding Evers' family, career, death, and his legacy. The home has hosted scores of visitors including many Members of Congress who participated in the Faith & Politics pilgrimages throughout the South.

My bill, H.R. 959, the Medgar Evers House Study Act, authorizes a special resource study by the Secretary of the Interior on the home in which his family lived and Medgar Evers was assassinated located at 2332 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive in Jackson, Mississippi. The study will determine the national significance of the Evers home and determine the feasibility of designating the site as a unit of the National Park system.

Mr. Speaker, Medgar Evers was a civil rights giant. He dedicated his life to bringing down the pillars that maintained Jim Crow in Mississippi. The heroic life he lived and the remarkable legacy that he left are unquestioned. Today's bill will further cement the role that he played in advancing civil and human rights in our Nation. With that, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 959.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I urge all Members to support H.R. 959.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, Medgar Evers was a patriot and a civil rights leader who gave his life to realize the full promise of the American Declaration of Independence. His memory is vivid and revered by every American of goodwill who lived through those momentous years. It is for us now to preserve his memory for the many generations of Americans to follow who will have to look to history to know him.

This bill is a step toward recognizing the enormous debt our Nation owes him and to ensure that future generations can draw inspiration from his leadership, his patriotism, his courage, and his sacrifice that he made in the cause of freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 959, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### NATIONAL FOREST SMALL TRACTS ACT AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2015

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1214) to amend the Small Tracts Act to expand the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange small parcels of National Forest System land to enhance the management of the National Forest System, to resolve minor encroachments, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1214

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Forest Small Tracts Act Amendments Act of 2015".

#### SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE OF SMALL PARCELS OF NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LAND.

(a) INCREASE IN MAXIMUM VALUE OF SMALL PARCELS.—Section 3 of Public Law 97-465 (commonly known as the Small Tracts Act; 16 U.S.C. 521e) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking "\$150,000" and inserting "\$500,000".

(b) ADDITIONAL CONVEYANCE PURPOSES.—Section 3 of Public Law 97-465 (16 U.S.C. 521e) is further amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "which are—" and inserting "which involve any one of the following:";

(2) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking "parcels" and inserting "Parcels"; and

(B) by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting a period;

(3) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking "parcels" the first place it appears and inserting "Parcels"; and

(B) by striking "; or" at the end and inserting a period;

(4) in paragraph (3), by striking "road" and inserting "Road"; and

(5) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

"(4) Parcels of 40 acres or less which are determined by the Secretary to be physically isolated, to be inaccessible, or to have lost their National Forest character.

"(5) Parcels of 10 acres or less which are not eligible for conveyance under paragraph

(2), but which are encroached upon by permanent habitable improvements for which there is no evidence that the encroachment was intentional or negligent.

"(6) Parcels used as a cemetery, a landfill, or a sewage treatment plant under a special use authorization issued by the Secretary. In the case of a cemetery expected to reach capacity within 10 years, the sale, exchange, or interchange may include, in the sole discretion of the Secretary, up to one additional acre abutting the permit area to facilitate expansion of the cemetery."

(c) DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS.—Section 2 of Public Law 97-465 (16 U.S.C. 521d) is amended—

(1) by striking "The Secretary is authorized" and inserting the following:

"(a) CONVEYANCE AUTHORITY; CONSIDERATION.—The Secretary is authorized";

(2) by striking "The Secretary shall insert" and inserting the following:

"(b) INCLUSION OF TERMS, COVENANTS, CONDITIONS, AND RESERVATIONS.—The Secretary shall insert";

(3) by striking "covenants" and inserting "covenants"; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(c) DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS.—

"(1) DEPOSIT IN SISK FUND.—The net proceeds derived from any sale or exchange conducted under the authority of paragraph (4), (5), or (6) of section 3 shall be deposited in the fund established by Public Law 90-171 (commonly known as the Sisk Act; 16 U.S.C. 484a).

"(2) USE.—Amounts deposited under paragraph (1) shall be available to the Secretary until expended for—

"(A) the acquisition of land or interests in land for administrative sites for the National Forest System in the State from which the amounts were derived;

"(B) the acquisition of land or interests in land for inclusion in the National Forest System in that State, including land or interests in land which enhance opportunities for recreational access;

"(C) the performance of deferred maintenance on administrative sites for the National Forest System in that State or other deferred maintenance activities in that State which enhance opportunities for recreational access; or

"(D) the reimbursement of the Secretary for costs incurred in preparing a sale conducted under the authority of section 3 if the sale is a competitive sale."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1214 would amend the Small Tracts Act to allow for the sale of small, isolated, federally owned parcels outside of the main body of a national forest as well as parcels encumbered with certain special uses such as cemeteries. The management